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INT 461/1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

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R

January 28, 1949

On January 28 telephoned Puddock and told him we did not believe we should or could take on any part of responsibility. Asked if they had considered Justice in view of history. He said they had thought about but had made no exploratory moves until they heard from us. He agreed with our view and with my suggestion that the matter might very well turn out to be "an activity of common concern" best performed by CIA. He acknowledged our obvious interest in the product of any reactivated organization.

P.A. 

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : R - Mr. Armstrong

DATE: January 26, 1949

FROM : CIR - Allan Evans *RE*

INT 461A *11*

SUBJECT: FNB

see att.
1 - The burden of operating a FNB would seriously cripple our fulfilling present responsibilities, and, in my opinion, cannot remotely be contemplated on the assumption of unchanged resources.

2 - The work is unsuited to the mission of the State Department, and is best avoided for policy reasons.

3 - By the same token, I wonder whether it is wise to locate the work in CIA—it sticks in the back of my mind that at least in the publicity, and perhaps in the law, is provision against CIA undertaking responsibility for operations focussed upon domestic circumstances.

4 - I think we might consider recommending that this work center in the Department of Justice, which had a unit that operated in parallel to FNB and continued the operation until quite recently—in fair force until 1946, but dwindling rapidly from the end of that year. The original scope of work included exploitation of 500 foreign-language U.S. newspapers—now the take is 6. The files of papers are at LC, but the files of memoranda remain in the unit. If any re-activating is to occur, this unit might be the most logical locus.

CIR:AllanEvans:HY:1-26-49. *[REDACTED]*

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INT 4613/14
January 27, 1949

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Armstrong

FROM: OLI - George R. Fearing, Jr.

SUBJECT: Reactivation of the Foreign Nationalities Branch.

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum, dated January 26, 1949; same subject.

In our opinion, the reactivation of the FNB should only be done in CIA and as an activity of common concern. I am of the opinion that NSCID No. 7 permits CIA to engage in this type of activity.

Insofar as OLI is concerned, IAD could not undertake any collection activity for this type of project without an additional personnel allotment. However, in cooperation with the FBI and CIA, IAD makes a considerable contribution in this subject field through Mr. Davis in New York.

Further, it appears to us that if the Department engaged in this activity, there might arise a conflict of interest with the FBI with the very good prospect of the Department coming out second best. In our opinion the FNB type of activity concerns internal or domestic security which is FBI's concern.

The translation services of the Department are already overburdened and aren't designed for the type of operation envisaged. There again, additional personnel would be necessary. It might be well to point out that in CIA itself there has been considerable delay in the translating of the Russian language press to the detriment of the Department's operations, especially OIR. This translation service was undertaken by CIA as a service of common concern. Reactivation of the FNB in CIA might throw an additional burden on this CIA service and thus delay more some of the important work currently being done by the Foreign Documents Branch of CIA.

If it is decided that CIA should reactivate FNB, then some provision should be made to insure that any information derived from sources developed by CIA in the pursuit of this activity be furnished to the individual agencies according to the division of responsibilities outlined in NSCID No. 3 for agency exploitation.

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I believe that both Mr. Kennan and Mr. Davies have an interest in this subject, in addition to EUR/X.

cc: OIR - Mr. Evans

OLI:CFKillea:gf

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INT 4616

January 26, 1949

To:

OIR - Mr. Evans
OIR - Mr. Pearing

Subject:

Reactivation of the Foreign Nationalities Branch

The Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) of CIA has been considering the advisability of reactivating the operations conducted during, and for a short time after, the war by the Foreign Nationalities Branch (FNB) of OSS. Upon the liquidation of FNB its files were turned over to SSU and are partly now in CIA and partly in Archives. OPC finds a need for intelligence on foreign nationality groups in this country in connection with its own work. As they see it, two functions are involved:

- (a) Collection and translation, and
- (b) Research and analysis with respect to the materials acquired.

They recognize that the two functions are separable and are wondering where they should most appropriately be located in the over-all intelligence family.

Obviously a rather delicate relationship with the Department of Justice is involved, and because OO of CIA already has a partial charter in the domestic collection field and has established relations with the FBI, it seems to OPC, and to me, that OO would be the logical locus for the collection activities. With respect to the other function, however, there is no equally ready starting point, and OPC has asked if we feel that the function should be assigned to us, whether we could undertake it without additional funds and personnel, or whether it should be located somewhere in CIA as an activity of common concern.

Would you please let me have your reaction as soon as possible so that we can reply to OPC?

W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

FWPA:ejg

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